

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST***Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply". IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal", "proposer", and "affected geographic area", respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Great Western Lumber Company, Chuckanut Tract access easement
2. Name of applicant:
Great Western Lumber Company
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
P O Box 159
Everson, WA 98247
(360) 966-3061 *Contact person: Tom Westergreen*
4. Date checklist prepared:
July 8, 2009
5. Agency requesting checklist:
Department of Natural Resources, Northwest Region
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Sometime between August 2009 and 2014.

Road Use Permit Number
50-084729

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
Yes, we will be applying for a Forest Practice permit on our private land.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
*We will need to apply for a Forest Practice permit for the work we plan to do on our property.
A road use permit is also being applied for from Washington State Parks.*
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
"do not know"
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
*Forest Practice Permit
Road use easement from Washington State Parks
Road use easement from Department of Natural Resources*
11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)
Great Western Lumber Company owns 80 acres of timberland on the Chuckanut Ridge area in Skagit County. We plan to build a logging road and harvest timber on that tract within the next several years. We are applying for easements on an existing logging road to reach our property. The access road leaves the southern parking lot of Larrabee State Park and goes up the Cleator Road for 1.1 mile. The access then intersects the South Log Road and proceeds another .7 miles to the park boundary. The road continues another 2.11 miles across DNR property. At the end of the drivable road (1,520 feet of the presently drivable road will be abandoned by the DNR before we start our project) 1,735 of new construction will need to be done. This will include building 90 feet of new road and reopening 125 feet of old abandon road at the end of the present road. Of the 1,520 feet of new DNR abandonment (fall of 2009) most will be reconstructed by removing the water bars, but 100 feet will require full bench construction rebuilding. At this location there was a shoulder slump from last year's storms. This segment will be drilled and shot, with the material end hauled to designate dumps sites. The existing logging road will be lightly graded, along with any other needed routine maintenance
12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.
Great Western Lumber Company ownership is Government lots 3 & 4 (N1/2 of the NW1/4) Section 5, Township 36 N, Range 3 East. The access road starts at Larrabee State Park and goes up the Cleator Road, continuing to the South Log Road and DNR ownership. See attached maps.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**
 - a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:
 - b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
On the new construction slope is approximately 20%, except the shoulder repair area where the slope is over 95%.
 - c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
Sandstone bedrock with sandy loam forest soils.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
Only on steep sandstone slopes. This would be the case where the road shoulder failed and will need to be repaired.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
For the new construction, cut and fill forest road construction will be used on this gentle slope. For the narrow area with road shoulder failure the new construction will involve drilling and blasting the bedrock, then end hauling the material to designate dump sites. This section will be full bench construction. Other new construction will involve smoothing out the water bars. The drivable part of the road will be lightly shaped with a road grader.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Not likely
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
None
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Construction would be done during dry periods and exposed soils grass seeded and mulched.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.
During construction there would be tractor, excavator and dump truck exhaust.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
No
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
This project is very remote and will only last 2-3 days.

3. Water

- a. Surface:
 - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.
No
 - 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.
No
 - 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.
None

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
No
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.
No
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.
No

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
No
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.
None

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.
Rainwater will be directed by ditches, water bars and culverts to the forest floor.
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.
No

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:
Through minimal ground disturbance and the use of culverts and water bars to direct water to the forest floor, duplicating natural conditions.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☒ **deciduous tree: alder, maple cottonwood**, aspen, other
- ☒ **evergreen tree: fir, cedar, hemlock**, pine, other
- ☒ shrubs
- ☐ grass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

A 30- year old forest plantation approximately 190 feet by 60 feet will be removed for road construction.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

"do not know"

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Grass seed any exposed soils

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk**, heron, **eagle**, **songbirds**, other:
mammals: **deer**, **bear**, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:
- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
"do not know"
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
"do not know"
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
"does not apply"

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
Only diesel for trucks and equipment.
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
No
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:
"does not apply"

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.
Slight chance of equipment oils leaks and forest fires during dry periods.
- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
Fire equipment on site during fire season.
 - 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
On site required fire equipment during fire season and equipment maintenance BMP's.
- b. **Noise**
- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
None

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
During construction there will be drill compressor chain saw and truck noise during daylight hours. Also a one-time rock blast will occur.
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
Remoteness of this site and only for 2-3 days.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
Commercial Forestry and remote recreation trails.
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
No
- c. Describe any structures on the site.
None
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
No
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Industrial Forest by Skagit County
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Industrial Forest by Skagit County
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
"does not apply"
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
"do not know"
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
None
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
does not apply
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Forestry Practices are compatible

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Does not apply
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Does not apply

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
does not apply

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
Does not apply
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
None
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
None

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
None
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
No
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
None

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Larrabee State Park is 1/4 mile north of the construction proposal and has hiking trails. The DNR existing logging road is used for hiking, as is an unauthorized trail through the Great Western Lumber property.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
Road construction and harvesting would displace the unauthorized hiking trail on Great Western Lumber property. Roadwork on the DNR road would temporarily displace its use for hiking. Truck hauling on the existing logging road during road construction and harvesting operations may temperately displace some hiking opportunities.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
Easement conditions may restrict months of operation and signage may be required.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
Do not know
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
None

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
Does not apply

14. **Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.
The access road that we are applying for easement on begins off of Chuckanut Drive through the Larrabee State Park south parking lot. The Cleator Road access is paved, gated and has served the State Park and DNR lands for many years.
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
No, do not know
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
Does not apply
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
No
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
No
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
The Great Western Lumber road construction and harvest on our private tract would take approximately 2-3 months and would generate about 10 vehicular trips per day.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
Possible signage.

15. **Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
No
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
None

16. **Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
Does not apply
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity, which might be needed.
Does not apply

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Date Submitted: July 9, 2009

Approved By: 

Title: Candace Johnson
Assistant Region Manager

Date: 9/9/09

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS
(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Not likely

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:
FPA rules and conditions, along with forestry BMP's.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Easement and roadwork would have little change.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:
FPA regulations

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Not likely

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:
BMP's

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Not likely, using an existing road to access private timberlands.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:
Follow FPA rules

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Does not apply

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Does not apply

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Will not

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Does not apply

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Does not conflict